Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06390 160831 Z

12
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EUR-25 IO-12 AID-20 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /145 W
---------- 077995
R 160400 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 189
USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6390

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS
SUBJECT: MR 2 WEEKLY OVERVIEW, APRIL 9-15, 1973

FOL TEL SENT SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG APR 15, 1973 RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE NHA TRANG 394

1. MOST OF MILITARY REGION 2 REMAINED QUIET DURING THE ELEVENTH WEEK OF THE CEASE- FIRE. THE IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS WERE THE SAME AS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, AND EACH ONE IS AN INTERESTING SITUATION IN ITSELF:

A) NORTHERN BINH DINH, WHERE ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE AND OCCASIONAL GROUND ACTIONS CONTINUE AGAINST ARVN AND TERRITORIAL FORCE UNITS. THE PROVINCE CHIEF AND 22 ND DIVISION COMMANDER ANTICIPATE A RENEWED OFFENSIVE IN THIS AREA WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING ALL THEIR REGULAR-FORCE UNITS (FOUR INFANTRY REGIMENTS AND A RANGER GROUP) INTO THE FOUR NORTHERN DISTRICTS. MEANWHILE, CLEARING OPERATIONS IN THE COASTAL AREAS OF THREE OF THESE DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED OR DE- EMPHASIZED.

B) AN AREA WEST- SOUTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY, WHERE IN THE SPACE OF 17 DAYS THE NVA/ VC ROUTED FOUR ENEMY COMPANIES AND TOOK POSSESSION OF A HILL THAT COMMANDS ONE OF THEIR MAJOR SUPPLY AND INFILTRATION ROUTES. THE ENEMY ATTACKS IN THIS AREA LET UP AFTER TWO SIDES GOT INTO RADIO EXCHANGES, BUT, AS IN SO MANY OTHER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATIONS, IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL WHETHER ANY MUTUALLY-ACCEPTABLE MIDDLE GROUND CAN BE FOUND.

C) ALONG QL-19 IN THANH AN DISTRICT OF WESTERN PLEIKU, WHERE THE TWO SIDES HAVE BEEN SPARRING INCONCLUSIVE FOR WEEKS. HERE AGAIN, THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COMPROMISE SEEM REMOTE. SIGNS EMERGED DURING THE WEEK THAT THE COMMUNISTS MIGHT LET UP ON THEIR ATTACKS BY FIRE IF THE GVN STOPPED PATROLLING IN THE AREA AND ISGYHEY WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN A CLEAR AND GENEROUS DEMARCATION OF TERRITORY THAT WOULD INSULATE THEIR STRONGHOLD AT DUC CO. IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT GVN COMMANDERS AT THIS POINT WOULD ACQUIESCE IN THE CONCEPT OF DEMARCATION OR WRITE OFF THE SPECIFIC AREA IN QUESTION.

2. ELSEWHERE, THERE WAS LITTLE SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY BY EITHER SIDE. THE GVN IN PHU YEN IS STILL TRYING TO CLEAR INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 7- B FROM NATIONAL ROUTE 1 TO SON HOA DISTRICT BUT IS ENCOUNTERING NEWLY- LAID MINES EVERY DAY. THE OPENING OF EVEN THIS ONE STRETCH OF THE ROAD WILL REQUIRE MORE TIME, AND EARLY VISIONS OF CONNECTING PHU YEN AND PHU BON PROVINCES BY ROAD ANYTIME SOON HAVE NOW RECEDED.

3. THE ICCS IN TRUCE REGION 3 AND 4 WAS GENUINELY SHAKEN BY THE QUANG TRI HELICOPTER DOWNING;
SEVERAL DELEGATES IN THESE REGIONS LOST PERSONAL FRIENDS IN THE CRASH. A HUNGARIAN IN PEACEFUL BAO LOC HAS CONCLUDED " THEY DON' T LIKE US HERE" AND HAS VOWED NOT TO LEAVE HIS COMPOUND AGAIN EXCEPT WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH VIETNAMESE HE MEANT, BUT HE IMPLIED THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO ALL THE VIETNAMESE PARTIES.

4. CANADIAN DELEGATES IN TRUCE REGION 3 APPEAR DETERMINED TO KEEP PRESSING THEIR NEW AND MORE VIGOROUS TACTICS NEVERTHELESS.
THESE TACTICS, NOT SURPRISINGLY, HAVE HEIGHTENED THE PRE- EXISTING POLARIZATION OF THE ICCS AND HAVE CAUSED THE EAST EUROPEANS TO ESCALATE THEIR OBSTRUCTIONISM; THE HANDFUL OF INVESTIGATIONS REPORTED THIS WEEK REOTTED IN SPLIT DECISIONS OR WERE HEADING IN THAT DIRECTION. HOWEVER, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAVE PARTICIPATED
IN MOST IF NOT ALL NEW INVESTIGATIONS DURING THE PERIOD, AND THE GVN ELEMENT OF THE REGIONAL TPJMC HAS LEARNED TO SUBMIT FEWER AND BETTER- DOCUMENTED COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATIONS.

5. WITH NEW PROVINCE CHIEFS JUST INSTALLED IN PHU YEN AND PHU BON,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

NEWS AND RUMORS OF OTHER LIKELY CHANGES-- POSSIBLY AFFECTING AS MANY AS HALF OF THE OTHER TEN PROVINCES-- BEGAN TO CIRCULATE OR RECIRCULATE IN THE REGION. THE PROVINCE CHIEFS INVOLVED RANGE FROM EXCELLENT TO POOR. THE HARDEST INFORMATION CONCERNS THE BEST OF THE LOT, COL. NGO TAN NGHIA, WHO TOLD HIS STAFF THAT-- AFTER MORE THAN THREE YEARS IN BINH THUAN-- HE HAS ASKED FOR RETIREMENT FROM THE ARVN OR, FAILING THAT, A DIFFERENT TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT, PERHAPS AS A MILITARY ATTACHE ABROAD.

6. A PROBLEM THE GVN WILL HAVE TO RESOLVE FAIRLY SOON IS THE DISPOSITION OF REFUGEES FROM NORTHERN KONTUM PROVINCE GENERATED BY THE 1972 SPRING OFFENSIVE. CABINET MINISTERS PHAN QUANG DAN AND NAY LUETT WANT TO RESETTLE THESE PEOPLE (SEVERAL THOUSAND OF WHOM RETURNED TO KONTUM FROM PLEIKU ONLY LAST MONTH) IN DARLAC OR ELSEWHERE, WHILE THE REFUGEES THEMSELVES EVIDENTLY PREFER TO REMAIN WHERE THEY ARE IN THE HOPE OF RETURNING TO THEIR ORIGINAL HOMES SOME DAY. MEANWHILE, WORK ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LARGE NGOK LONG (MARYLOU) CAMP NEAR KONTUM CITY HAS REPORTEDLY STOPPED, AND THE REFUGEES ARE INTERPRETING THE RESETTLEMENT TALK AS EVIDENCE THAT GVN LEADERS EXPECT NEW ENEMY OFFENSIVE ACTION IN KONTUM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
ENGLE
UNQUOTE BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON06390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BUNKER
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730444/aaaaipms.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <07-Dec-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980121
Subject: MR 2 WEEKLY OVERVIEW, APRIL 9-15, 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS
To: EA
STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005